

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00892 211523Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 INR-07 /037 W

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R 210959Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 0892

STADIS//////////

NOFORN

FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL

SUBJECT: MU-76

REF: STATE 039610

1. I HAVE RECEIVED INVITATION REFERRED TO REFTEL AND DECLINED BECAUSE OF CONFLICT ABOUT WHICH DEPARTMENT FULLY AWARE. I HAVE ATTENDED SUCH EXERCISES IN PAST AND FOUND THEN INTERESTING AND PROFITABLE AND DECLINED ATTENDANCE MU-76 WITH GENUINE REGRET.

2. DO NOT BELIEVE ATTENDANCE WOULD HAVE CAUSED PROBLEM IN JORDAN, PROVIDED I COULD EXPLAIN PERSONALLY TO KING AND RIFAI WHAT IS INVOLVED. JORDANIANS UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS, AND GIVEN NUMBER OF ATTENDEES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OUTSIDE MIDDLE EAST, WOULD HAVE BEEN REAFFIRMED IN JUDGMENT IT WAS NOT PURELY A MIDDLE EAST EXERCISE.

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EM JORDANIANS ARE ALSO AWARE FROM SECRETARY'S RECENT

PRESS CONFERENCE AND FROM OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION THAT SECRETARY IS PLANNING TO RECALL CERTAIN AMBASSADORS FROM REGION FOR CONSULTATIONS. THEY WELCOME THIS STEP AND STRONGLY SUPPORT IT AND HOPE IT WILL HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY, GIVEN THEIR REASONABLY SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR OWN PROCESSES, TO CONFUSE A MEETING SUCH AS MU-76 LATER IN EUROPE WITH PART OF THE SAME OR A SIMILAR PROCESS. WE CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD WHERE DISTORTION AND PARANOIA SOMETIMES SUBSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LOGIC, NOR FOR THAT MATTER WITH HOW THE LOCAL PUBLIC HERE MIGHT SEE THE ISSUE SINCE IT TOO IS SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE EMOTIONS. BUT BELIEVE IF CAREFULLY HANDLED HERE, MOST OF THE POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION COULD BE CUT OFF WHERE IT COUNTS. FINALLY, JORDANIANS HAVE NEVER RAISED OBJECTION TO MY KNOWLEDGE TO PRESENCE OF US AMBASSADORS FROM CONFRONTATION STATES AND ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE WHEN SUCH OCCURRED FOR A LONG PERIOD IN APRIL 1975 OR FOR A DAY OR TWO IN JANUARY 1976.

4. ALL IN ALL, IF GOJ GIVEN SOME REASONABLY NON-SENSITIVE ADVANCE INFORMATION, BELIEVE THE GATHERING COULD BE HANDLED WITH RATIONALITY AND UNDERSTANDING HERE. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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